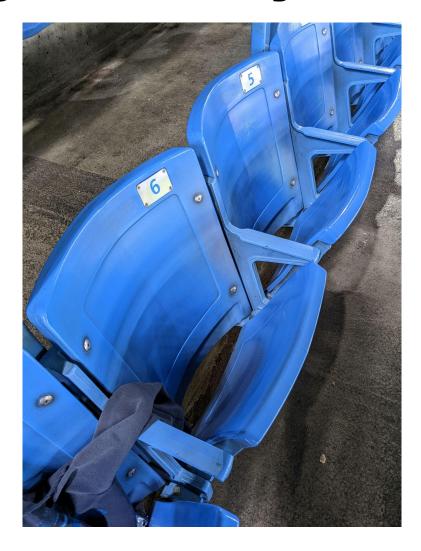
# SkyDome Syllables



A collection of haiku poems about the 2022 Toronto Blue Jays

By Eric Rosenhek

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To my incredible wife, children, family and friends. Thank you for putting up with my silly obsession.

To the Budzinski family: May Julia's memory be a blessing.

It began under the opportunistic skies of Dunedin, Florida. It began later than usual.

A lockout initiated by Commissioner Rob Manfred and Major League Baseball's 30 owners delayed Spring Training and cancelled the first two series of the regular season. However, owners and players settled on a new collective bargaining agreement and a full 162-game schedule was reinstated.

It began with additions: Kevin Gausman, Matt Chapman, Yusei Kikuchi; and subtractions: Robbie Ray, Steven Matz, Marcus Semien.

It began with high expectations after the 2021 Blue Jays missed the playoffs by one game. Assurances were fueled by the star slugger's suggestion that 2022 would be akin to a Hollywood blockbuster.

Fans gathered en masse for the first home opener *at home* since 2019. The excitement was palpable. "This could be the year" was the primary thought and unlike previous seasons, it had merit.

It began...

# Regular Season

Game 1: April 8
Blue Jays 10 Rangers 8

Comeback fuelled by the bat and feet of Teoscar erased the gross start

Game 2: April 9 Blue Jays 4 Rangers 3

Gausman did his part Bo and Espinal did theirs Bullpen held the fort

Game 3: April 10 Rangers 12 Blue Jays 6

Gorgeous beginning but the middle and ending was quite disastrous

> Game 4: April 11 Blue Jays 3 Yankees 0

Alek led the way backed by defence as graceful as movement on stage

Game 5: April 12 Yankees 4 Blue Jays 0

Poor performances from multiple sources yield a lousy result

#### Game 6: April 13 Blue Jays 6 Yankees 4

Powerful Vladdy
Cole could only tip his cap
Wound merely a scratch

Game 7: April 14 Yankees 3 Blue Jays 0

Gausman pitched to win
His teammates performed poorly
and need to repent

Game 8: April 15 Blue Jays 4 Athletics 1

What Stripling started was finished by Romano A toast to Jackie

Game 9: April 16 Athletics 7 Blue Jays 5

Rough day for Ryu
Debatable strike three calls
Bad luck all around

Game 10: April 17
Blue Jays 4 Athletics 3

Thinking about Buck going to war with cancer as we march forward

Game 11: April 19 Red Sox 2 Blue Jays 1

The routine ground ball was anything but routine Error proved costly

Game 12: April 20 Blue Jays 6 Red Sox 1

Surprising homerun from the unlikely bat of Raimel Tapia

Game 13: April 21 Blue Jays 3 Red Sox 2

Fenway provided the beautiful setting for impressive pitching

Game 14: April 22 Blue Jays 4 Astros 3

Vladdy flies around the bases majestically like a free stallion

Game 15: April 23 Blue Jays 3 Astros 2

Espinal and his vast Herculean muscles capture victory

#### Game 16: April 24 Astros 8 Blue Jays 7

This beautiful sport was simply barbaric to Jordan Romano

Game 17: April 25 Blue Jays 6 Red Sox 2

Classic Bo Bichette
Always swinging potently
Grand Slam eruption

Game 18: April 26 Blue Jays 6 Red Sox 5

Four late runs allowed Boston was ready to win George Springer said "no"

Game 19: April 27 Red Sox 7 Blue Jays 1

The finest moment was the first big league hit from journeyman Katoh

Game 20: April 28 Blue Jays 1 Red Sox 0

Day off for Vladdy but Alek was not bothered Masterpiece pitching Game 21: April 29 Astros 11 Blue Jays 7

Plenty of offence yet ineffective pitching produced gross defeat

> Game 22: April 30 Blue Jays 2 Astros 1

Gorgeous George Springer swung his mighty baton twice making the lights dance

Record: 14-8

Game 23: May 1 Blue Jays 3 Astros 2

Splitter from Gausman reduces Houston to dirt as Bo salts their earth

Game 24: May 2 Yankees 3 Blue Jays 2

When the victory served up front on gold platters is ignored and missed

Game 25: May 3 Yankees 9 Blue Jays 1

The seventh inning brought misplays and a blown call Truly hideous

Game 26: May 4 Blue Jays 2 Yankees 1

Angry Aaron Boone unleashes fire after getting ejected

Game 27: May 5 Guardians 6 Blue Jays 5

They climbed the mountain only to fall off before reaching the summit

#### Game 28: May 7 (Game One) Blue Jays 8 Guardians 3

The dormant offence roused itself after slumber providing support

Game 29: May 7 (Game Two)
Guardians 8 Blue Jays 2

Teoscar returned
The only positive note
from the ugly loss

Game 30: May 8
Guardians 4 Blue Jays 3

The struggling offence triggers the angry fanbase causing loud panic

Game 31: May 10 Yankees 6 Blue Jays 5

Much adversity and theatrics were conquered until judgement roared

> Game 32: May 11 Yankees 5 Blue Jays 3

Runners left on base Yankee Stadium specials Ample frustration Game 33: May 13 Rays 5 Blue Jays 2

Fitting that Friday united with the thirteenth as bad luck hit hard

Game 34: May 14 Blue Jays 5 Rays 1

Tie match moved briskly until the eighth inning when fireworks went off

Game 35: May 15 Rays 3 Blue Jays 0

How does a ballpark named after sweet orange juice stimulate nightmares?

Game 36: May 16
Blue Jays 6 Mariners 2

Expansion cousins opposed their former teammate and were defeated

Game 37: May 17 Blue Jays 3 Mariners 0

The second inning ultimately presented the tale of the match

# Game 38: May 18 Mariners 5 Blue Jays 1

There are times when the defeat is just a bad day on the plan of life

Game 39: May 20 Blue Jays 2 Reds 1

Foolish to assume that last place Cincinnati surrenders with haste

Game 40: May 21 Blue Jays 3 Reds 1

Honouring Bichette shower of electrolytes drenching Hazel Mae

Game 41: May 22 Reds 3 Blue Jays 2

Prime Joey Votto Etobicoke's favourite son wins on home soil

Game 42: May 23 Cardinals 7 Blue Jays 3

This painful defeat akin to fire on flesh was preventable Game 43: May 24
Blue Jays 8 Cardinals 1

Offensive outburst craved by team and worshippers finally arrived

Game 44: May 26 Blue Jays 6 Angels 3

They did not fear him Legendary Ohtani home runs and strikeouts

Game 45: May 27
Blue Jays 4 Angels 3

The fundamentals of this game decided to take the evening off

Game 46: May 28 Blue Jays 6 Angels 5

Early morning time
Stripling records the last out
Drama concluded

Game 47: May 29 Blue Jays 11 Angels 10

Quality pitching Absent in Orange County Fireworks present

#### Game 48: May 31 Blue Jays 6 White Sox 5

Everyone loves Kirk
Two magnificent home runs
Power built to thrill

Record: 28-20 (14-12)

Game 49: June 1 Blue Jays 7 White Sox 3

Electric home runs assist us in forgetting the stressful moments

Game 50: June 2 Blue Jays 8 White Sox 3

> Stormy skies at first Alek navigated course Magical pitching

Game 51: June 3
Twins 9 Blue Jays 3

Disadvantaged Twins
Surprising pit bulls disguised
as weak underdogs

Game 52: June 4 Blue Jays 12 Twins 3

Dreaded shaky start Berrios would recover Thirteen sweet strikeouts

Game 53: June 5
Twins 8 Blue Jays 6

The red uniforms
Worn on this random Sunday
Agents of bad luck

#### Game 54: June 6 Blue Jays 8 Royals 0

Odd weather delay did not affect Stripling or his earnest teammates

Game 55: June 7
Blue Jays 7 Royals 0

At every moment
Kirk or Bichette stood on base viewing Missouri

Game 56: June 8 Royals 8 Blue Jays 4

Lousy afternoon from the stadium rubber was royally felt

Game 57: June 10 Blue Jays 10 Tigers 1

Not even the rain would stop the pitching or bats or those from Windsor

Game 58: June 11 Tigers 3 Blue Jays 1

Moreno arrived but the gas tank was empty Only one run scored

Game 59: June 12 Blue Jays 6 Tigers 0

Nine shutout innings from the man called "Chicken Strip" and the bullpen crew

> Game 60: June 13 Blue Jays 11 Orioles 1

Exclamation mark
An object turned into dust
Dejected pitcher

Game 61: June 14
Orioles 6 Blue Jays 5

Locating pitches
performed the defeating role
Offence falling short

Game 62: June 15 Blue Jays 7 Orioles 6

Vladdy saved the day avoiding true disaster Thank you Brandon Hyde

Game 63: June 16 Orioles 10 Blue Jays 2

Harrowing Gausman
Rare error from Espinal
Awful third inning

#### Game 64: June 17 Yankees 12 Blue Jays 3

Powerful Yankees
Home runs void of compassion
Awful fifth inning

Game 65: June 18 Yankees 4 Blue Jays 0

Frustrating Yankees

Not even the red jerseys

could derail their streak

Game 66: June 19 Blue Jays 10 Yankees 9

Bleak situation
Bat flips from big swings change course
Dramatic fashion

Game 67: June 20 White Sox 8 Blue Jays 7

The comeback fell short
Pitching trouble on Southside
Unable to fix

Game 68: June 21 White Sox 7 Blue Jays 6

Deflating defeat Many reasons to ponder Four hours in length Game 69: June 22 Blue Jays 9 White Sox 5

Ejection before the afternoon match begins preluding the win

> Game 70: June 24 Blue Jays 9 Brewers 4

Manoah and Kirk eclipsed Wisconsin's talent and refused to wane

Game 71: June 25
Brewers 5 Blue Jays 4

Kikuchi struggled Fielding error did not help Not enough late runs

> Game 72: June 26 Brewers 10 Blue Jays 3

Berrios struggled Rowdy fulfilled his revenge Concern everywhere

Game 73: June 27 Blue Jays 7 Red Sox 2

Kevin struck out ten Electrifying home runs Refreshing result

#### Game 74: June 28 Blue Jays 6 Red Sox 5

After Kirk reached base Vladdy told his manager he would seize the win

Game 75: June 29 Red Sox 6 Blue Jays 5

The Struggling bullpen
Phelps nor Mayza held the fort
No magic this night

Game 76: June 30 Blue Jays 4 Rays 1

Kikuchi stood firm as everyone doubted him Six gorgeous innings

Record: 43-33 (15-13)

Game 77: July 1 Blue Jays 9 Rays 2

The nation's birthday
Five doubles in one inning
Blast from Gurriel

Game 78: July 2 (Game One) Rays 6 Blue Jays 2

Missile strikes ankle Injured Gausman yields to fear Fate of series changed

Game 79: July 2 (Game Two) Rays 11 Blue Jays 5

Rare Saturday night
Hatch cannot stop the onslaught
Cursed red threads at play

Game 80: July 3 Rays 7 Blue Jays 3

Sadness and sorrow
Taking the field and grieving
Score did not matter

Game 81: July 4
Athletics 5 Blue Jays 1

Independence Day
Offence weak like fireworks
soaking in water

#### Game 82: July 5 Athletics 5 Blue Jays 3

Location issues visibly plague Kikuchi as anger rises

Game 83: July 6 Blue Jays 2 Athletics 1

Chapman knows Oakland He sends a ball to the seats Bragging rights secured

Game 84: July 7
Mariners 8 Blue Jays 3

The freak occurrence of ball deflecting off glove and over the wall

Game 85: July 8 Mariners 5 Blue Jays 2

The vacant offence left poor Romo out to dry against his old club

Game 86: July 9
Mariners 2 Blue Jays 1

Alek and Robbie Former teammates turned rivals Tight pants succeeded Game 87: July 10 Mariners 6 Blue Jays 5

Routine plays not made Glove breaks for the second time Swept in Seattle

> Game 88: July 12 Blue Jays 4 Phillies 3

Graceful George Springer Soaring in air peacefully Spectacular catch

Game 89: July 13 Blue Jays 8 Phillies 2

First game for Schneider Handsome pitching and hitting Statement clearly made

> Game 90: July 14 Royals 3 Blue Jays 1

> Lacking regulars mystical Royals baffle the offence and fans

Game 91: July 15 Blue Jays 8 Royals 1

Chapman slashes air Obliterated baseball Second deck landing

Game 92: July 16 Blue Jays 6 Royals 5

Defeat imminent when Yogi Berra magic came honourably

Game 93: July 17 Blue Jays 4 Royals 2

Superstar slugger broke the deadlock brilliantly Fly to Hollywood

> Game 94: July 22 Blue Jays 28 Red Sox 5

Fenway adventure
Grand slam blessed with good fortune
Fly Tapia Fly

Game 95: July 23 Blue Jays 4 Red Sox 1

Alek is in charge Do not challenge his presence Walk away head down

> Game 96: July 24 Blue Jays 8 Red Sox 4

Multiple errors makes Cora stoic and lost as brooms sweep away Game 97: July 26 Blue Jays 10 Cardinals 3

Buck came home today
Greeted with love and applause
Gifted with home runs

Game 98: July 27 Cardinals 6 Blue Jays 1

Treat to watch Pujols
Shame he went yard on Richards
Legend seals the win

Game 99: July 28 Blue Jays 5 Tigers 3

Two scoops for Chapman Enough to hold off Detroit Will Geroge be alright?

> Game 100: July 29 Tigers 4 Blue Jays 2

Missile strikes elbow Switch injury with insult Forget this outcome

Game 101: July 30 Blue Jays 5 Tigers 3

Pure satisfaction when Teoscar dropped his bat capturing the lead

#### Game 102: July 31 Blue Jays 4 Tigers 1

Machine went to work showing his best on Peacock and to relatives

Record: 57-45 (14-12)

Game 103: August 2 Blue Jays 3 Rays 1

Kevin grabbed a brush and painted a beautiful well-pitched masterpiece

> Game 104: August 3 Rays 3 Blue Jays 2

The lunchtime special of baseball and orange juice lacked sweet victory

Game 105: August 4 Blue Jays 9 Twins 3

Alek was not hurt Outstretched hand informs dugout Nation feels relief

Game 106: August 5
Twins 6 Blue Jays 5

Heartbreaking affair Comeback victory in reach Misplays cause defeat

Game 107: August 6 Twins 7 Blue Jays 3

Tim sacrifices
his body for the great cause
unsuccessfully

Game 108: August 7
Blue Jays 3 Twins 2

Sanchez blocked the plate Call was overturned off-site Successful challenge

Game 109: August 8 Orioles 7 Blue Jays 4

Kikuchi struggles Fans demand his removal Schneider disagrees

> Game 110: August 9 Orioles 6 Blue Jays 5

Bullpen and Odor ruined two homers from Bo after the rain fell

Game 111: August 12 Guardians 8 Blue Jays 0

Please help me forget what developed in this match and its final score

> Game 112: August 13 Blue Jays 2 Guardians 1

White to Romano
All guarding the Guardians
Victory achieved

Game 113: August 14
Guardians 7 Blue Jays 2

The summer darkness leads to frustration online and needless attacks

Game 114: August 15 Orioles 7 Blue Jays 3

Kikuchi exits
Angry mob armed with torches
demand removal

Game 115: August 16 Orioles 4 Blue Jays 2

Early excitement becomes anger and despair Joy faded away

Game 116: August 17 Blue Jays 6 Orioles 1

Six perfect innings Sensational Stripling start Ripe offence explodes

Game 117: August 18 Blue Jays 9 Yankees 2

Vladdy offered praise to the famous right field porch and was rewarded

#### Game 118: August 19 Blue Jays 4 Yankees 0

Kevin was the star on Apple Television Local listings checked

Game 119: August 20 Blue Jays 5 Yankees 2

Mitch is our new friend Brought his parents to the Bronx Held his position

> Game 120: August 21 Yankees 4 Blue Jays 2

The Audi logo was the demarcation line for Alek and Cole

Game 121: August 23 Blue Jays 9 Red Sox 3

Eight runs with two outs occurred in the third inning of Bradley's return

Game 122: August 24 Blue Jays 3 Red Sox 2

George took advantage of the opportunity and the green monster

Game 123: August 25 Blue Jays 6 Red Sox 5

Playing with matches
Walking away with small burns
and the Fenway sweep

Game 124: August 26 Angels 12 Blue Jays 0

Arrival at dawn
Batting practice was cancelled
Unsurprising Score

Game 125: August 27 Angels 2 Blue Jays 0

Celebrated past
Pitching duel for the present
Vicious Ohtani

Game 126: August 28 Angels 8 Blue Jays 3

Schneider was angry at missed opportunities and lack of focus

Game 127: August 29 Blue Jays 5 Cubs 4

Darkness all around until Danny used his bat to create sunshine

#### Game 128: August 30 Blue Jays 5 Cubs 3

Stroman on the mound Left satisfied with the lead Watched it disappear

Game 129: August 31 Cubs 7 Blue Jays 5

Another comeback encouraged by quiet Kirk fell short of the mark

Record: 70-59 (13-15)

# Game 130: September 2 Blue Jays 4 Pirates 0

Where three rivers meet Alek executes his craft for those who wear blue

Game 131: September 3
Blue Jays 4 Pirates 1

Bullpen day announced Holding the fort long enough for Bichette magic

Game 132: September 4
Blue Jays 4 Pirates 3

There are victories worthy of space in textbooks
This triumph was not

Game 133: September 5 (Game One) Blue Jays 7 Orioles 3

Old home for Kevin Striking out orange hitters Conquering the balk

Game 134: September 5 (Game Two)
Blue Jays 8 Orioles 4

Hats released en masse Honouring Bichette's output Two wins in one day Game 135: September 6
Orioles 9 Blue Jays 6

Camden Yards chaos
Poor pitching and frustration
tell the rough story

Game 136: September 7
Blue Jays 4 Orioles 1

True ace of the staff Alek provided eight frames for grateful teammates

Game 137: September 9 Blue Jays 4 Rangers 3

Homecoming for Ross Backed by unearthly Bichette and hero Danny

> Game 138: September 10 Blue Jays 11 Rangers 7

Ball dances on leg Finds home inside Mayza's glove Third out recorded

Game 139: September 11 Rangers 4 Blue Jays 1

Bullpen day returned Results were underwhelming Forget and forward

### Game 140: September 12 Blue Jays 3 Rays 2

Bo the glorious Great heroics yet again Thunder from the seats

Game 141: September 13 (Game One) Rays 4 Blue Jays 2

Third inning follies clinched the outcome of the match despite late drama

Game 142: September 13 (Game Two)
Blue Jays 7 Rays 2

Bleak outlook well versed until Merrifield stepped up and changed the channel

Game 143: September 14 Blue Jays 5 Rays 1

Centennial mark for home runs was achieved by Superstar Vladdy

> Game 144: September 15 Rays 11 Blue Jays 0

> > An afternoon tale of missed opportunities and two rough innings

#### Game 145: September 16 Blue Jays 6 Orioles 3

Chapman homered twice
A three-run blast from Springer
Bullpen day success

# Game 146: September 17 Blue Jays 6 Orioles 3

Was much to Marvel Playing like superheroes Red brought victory

#### Game 147: September 18 Orioles 5 Blue Jays 4

Even the best arms have imperfect moments that lead to harsh losses

#### Game 148: September 20 Blue Jays 18 Phillies 11

Mastercraft pitching was not present with the score Akin to football

## Game 149: September 21 Phillies 4 Blue Jays 3

Bad luck fell upon the bullpen late in the night causing much anger

#### Game 150: September 22 Rays 10 Blue Jays 5

Awful pitching night Berrios discourse grows loud Panicked opinions

Game 151: September 23 Rays 10 Blue Jays 6

Was just like boxing
Two bad blows but recovered
Knocked out in the eighth

Game 152: September 24
Blue Jays 3 Rays 1

Everything on edge Whit Merrifield saved the day Home run of the year

Game 153: September 25 Blue Jays 7 Rays 1

Home runs on Sunday pause Tampa stadium curse earning series split

Game 154: September 26
Blue Jays 3 Yankees 2

Theatrics displayed Electrolytes soak Vladdy We live in his house Game 155: September 27 Yankees 5 Blue Jays 2

Yesterday's hero commits inexcusable baserunning mistake

Game 156: September 28 Yankees 8 Blue Jays 3

Forget the record
Great Judge took back momentum
Prize slips through fingers

Game 157: September 30 Blue Jays 9 Red Sox 0

Playoff ticket punched Defeating Boston followed Sweet clubhouse party

Record: 88-69 (18-10)

#### Game 158: October 1 Blue Jays 10 Red Sox 0

Night of partying did not affect the talent or final outcome

Game 159: October 2 Blue Jays 6 Red Sox 3

Final dance at home Fireworks from Teoscar No sign of blister

> Game 160: October 3 Blue Jays 5 Orioles 1

The wet conditions could not arrest Merrifield until the eighth frame

Game 161: October 5 (Game One) Orioles 5 Blue Jays 4

Meaningless result but memorable game for Gabby and Otto

Game 162: October 5 (Game Two)
Blue Jays 5 Orioles 1

Season conclusion
The Wild Card round established
Postseason ready

Final Record: 92-70 (4-1)

Second in the American League East, seven games behind the first-place New York Yankees. Captured the top Wild Card spot in the AL.

# Wild Card Round

# Game 1: October 7 Mariners 4 Blue Jays 0

Dejected Alek processes his performance and valued lessons

Game 2: October 8
Mariners 10 Blue Jays 9

Shocking implosion turns the beautiful setting into tragedy

Seattle wins 2-0

It ended shockingly. Two games, two losses. One defeat was unfortunate, while the other was excruciating.

Stunned silence swept over the stadium as the shortstop and center fielder lay motionless on the field. It was a collision that ultimately guaranteed an early postseason exit.

It ended after a change in management midway through the season. Mr. Montoyo had gone as far as he could, but it seemed - reportedly - confidence in him was nil.

It ended following many ebbs and flows. Aggravation and ecstasy took multiple turns in the zeitgeist. Can anyone be blamed for feeling worn out?

It ended with bitterness, but the team and fanbase carry on.

It ended...

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